

We should all celebrate the huge contribution music makes to our economy – Tom Watson

Tom

Watson, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport,

commenting on UK Music's Wish You Were Here 2017 report, said:

"We

should all celebrate the huge contribution music makes to our economy. But we mustn't take it for granted. Without the right Brexit deal it could be harder for overseas visitors to come and experience live music here in the UK, and harder for artists to tour.

"Our

music industry wouldn't be what it is today without the contribution of smaller

music venues – the ones that are struggling the most, but are crucial for nurturing up-and-coming talent. We need to make sure they're protected.

Labour's cultural capital fund would invest in upgrading existing music venues

and creating new ones, to make sure that our live music industry remains a success story."